[20th July 1953

Employment to handloom workers in Malabar.

* 714 *Q.*—SRI P. KUNHIRAMA KIDAV: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Government have statistics of the number of unemployed handloom workers in Malabar: and

(*b*) what all steps the Government have taken to protect the handloom industry and to give employment to handloom workers?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO:—" (*a*) No, Sir.

" (*b*) The Government have undertaken a relief scheme which provides relief to the distressed handloom weavers in the State who have been thrown out of employment due to the slump in handloom cloth trade. The scheme will assure the weavers of a subsistence wage and continuous employment and also relieve them from the burden of marketing cloth.

At the instance of this Government, the Central Government have reserved certain fields of production for the handloom industry including coloured sarees and a percentage of bordered dhoties. This Government have also urged the Union Government to reserve the entire production of bordered dhoties for the handloom industry only.

Arrangements have also been made to supply yarn at ex-mill rates for all handloom factories in Malabar district that are eligible to get not less than two bales per month and from State Nominees direct for other factories.

The Government have created a High Power Handloom Committee to explore and suggest measures for the rehabilitation of the handloom industry and for affording adequate relief to the workers.

The Government of India have allotted a sum of Rs. 1·25 crores to this State from the Cess Fund for being utilized on schemes for the development of handloom industry. The schemes are now under the active consideration of the two Governments.

The Central Government have decided to constitute a handloom Directorate with Agencies for Internal and External Marketing.

The Government of India have since approved a scheme, prepared by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Madras, for the appointment of Commercial Travellers in foreign countries and for opening of Emporia of handloom goods in foreign countries for the marketing of handloom products produced all over India."

SRI P. KUNHIRAMA KIDAV:—" In view of the fact that the reservation of sarees and dhoties to handloom weavers will

20th July 1953]

not help to relieve the miserable condition of handloom weavers of Malabar, will the Government consider the handloom weavers of Malabar on a separate footing?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—"The reservation has to a certain extent relieved their difficulties. About the problem of Malabar being treated separately, we would like to hear from the hon. Member what he would like us to do."

SRI S. NARAYANAPPA :—"Due to the extension of the relief scheme in the Madras State, are the Government providing adequate employment to all the weaving families in the State?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—"I do not say we are providing employment to all the families. But we are certainly providing employment to more families than before."

SRI C. H. KANARAN :—"In view of the fact that the Members of this House have expressed that the problem of handloom weavers in Malabar is different from that in other parts of the State and even though the Government have been requested to go into the matter in detail, they have not done so, will the Government now enquire into the matter in detail and submit a report to this House?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—"The Government have made enquiries and the Collector of Malabar informs us that there are factories which are quite different from other factories in other parts of the State. The Collector has been able to make the factory-owners and the handloom workers agree to a suitable and satisfactory arrangement whereby the workers in the factories are paid a decent sum of money."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—"Sir, reservation of coloured sarees and dhoties will not help the handloom weavers in Malabar. Even the Ryan scheme did not give any help to them because it was impracticable. May I know, Sir, whether the Hon. Minister will accept the main slogan of working classes that they should be given unemployment allowance till they get employment?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—"Perhaps the hon. Member is right in saying that the reservation of coloured sarees and bordered dhoties cannot affect Malabar considerably. But there is no doubt that the Ryan Scheme in a modified manner accepted by both the factory-owners and labourers, and the Government has worked satisfactorily in Malabar. With regard to the question of giving unemployment allowance, the hon. Member may put a separate question as it involves a policy of the Government."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" The Hon. Minister in his reply referred to the appointment of a High Power Committee. May I know if this High Power Committee is different from the one previously appointed and if it has higher powers? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" It is the same High Power Committee that has been working for over a year."

SRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH :—" In view of the fact that the conditions of the handloom weavers are deteriorating from day to day, will the Government consider the desirability of imposing a ban on the import of mill-made sarees and dhoties into the State or a terminal tax on mill-made sarees and dhoties imported into the State, to give effective protection to the handloom industry? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The hon. Member will surely agree with me that his suggestion will raise inter-State complications and it may not be desirable to think of it at this particular stage."

8-50 a.m. SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" May I know the number of co-operative societies organized under the Ryan scheme? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I wish the hon. Member puts a separate question."

SRI B. SANKARAYYA :—" ఇదివరకు చీరలు, ధోవతులు చేనేత పారిశ్రామికులకు ప్రత్యేకించాలని సెంట్రల్ గవర్నమెంటు తీర్మానించి, దాన్ని యిక్కడ ఎసెంబ్లీ సభ్యులు వెంటనే ఆమోదించిన సందర్భములో మద్రాసు గవర్నమెంటుకు కొన్ని సూచనలు చేశారు. ఆ సూచనలలో యిప్పుడు చేనేత పారిశ్రామికులవద్ద ఉన్నటువంటి గుడ్డలో ప్రభుత్వానికి వాడకానికి కావలసిన గుడ్డకాక, మిగతా గుడ్డను చేనేతవారికి subsidy యిచ్చి అమ్మించాలని, నూలుకు గిట్టుబాటు అయ్యే ధరకుకూడా సబ్సిడి యిచ్చి సహాయపడాలన్న సూచనలమీద, ప్రభుత్వమువారు ఏమి చర్య తీసుకొన్నారు? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, I am afraid by the time the hon. Member came to the last portion of his question I forgot the rest of the question. (Laughter.) I may tell the hon. Member that the question of subsidizing the sale of handloom cloth is part of the Rs. 1·25 crore scheme that is worked by the Government of India. Details are being submitted by this Government to the Government of India in this connexion."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government have made enquiries whether the scheme has been successful and, if so, with what results? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, speaking generally without going into the details, Government have been informed that the scheme had been a success."